

Strategic Directions for Central Ohio May 5, 2015

Summary of Discussions

GROUP ONE

Opening remarks by MORPC Team; Phase II of Insight 2050;
Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks

Discussion of group one topics:

Common concerns & priorities

- How to determine best use for open space in different areas?
- Metro parks were built far away from urban area and therefore not necessarily accessible to all; are there opportunities for parks in the urbanized areas? Are there opportunities to increase access to the outer parks?
- There is a growing need to combat illegal dumping that has exponentially increased in rural areas.
- There is no centralized system for reporting water pollution and illegal waste dumping.
- These issues impact transportation infrastructure.
- How do we build "Pride in Place"?
- There is a need to develop more east/west parks.
- There is a need to reduce landfill and find more re-use for the waste.
- Due to TIF funding, residents are not paying for some services that they continue to receive.

Opportunities to collaborate

- Regional Planning for waste disposal.
- Put infrastructure in when developing multi-family housing that encourages recycling.
- People want to recycle and would pay to live in an apartment or condo that ensures that specific amenity is provided. How do we incentivize business owners to recycle in these complexes? How do we turn trash into revenue for our local businesses?
- Can schools teach families and students about recycling? What other partners can be engaged?
- When building residential/regional hubs, trails, and roads, are locations of schools, libraries, parks taken into consideration?
- Can private markets collaborate with local government?
- To adjust for the future, various organizations are being "flipped upside down" (i.e. SWACO does more than get rid of trash, MORPC does more than planning, libraries do more than provide books).
- Potential for better material utilization, in order to reduce littering.

GROUP TWO

Columbus Metropolitan Library
Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

Discussion of group two topics:

Common concerns & priorities

- Speed of how people interact is influencing space utilization.
- A demand for more personal interaction.
- There is an undercurrent of people who have lost hope and cannot comprehend resolving their own issues let alone and others.
- Where do you place the investment for 0-5 years of age in the list of priorities?
- Ratio of poverty is increasing; Therefore the need for affordable housing is in higher demand.

- Proper Pre K is not only a priority, but an investment in our region. The library is focusing on helping people obtain jobs; build and maintain relationships with business leaders; if you are acting out in early years you are dropping out in 9th & 10th grade.
- How can we prepare for growth with increased poverty?
- We actually are not that diverse, so we should prepare for upcoming diversity.
- Public owned housing is on the decline; Yet the demand for public housing always beats the supply.
- There is a need for transportation to connect people in affordable housing to jobs and all the other community amenities.

Opportunities to collaborate

- MORPC provides a great space to meet.
- Working with library to engage public.
- Metro Parks currently partners with schools. Are there other additional partners?
- There are opportunities for Collaboration across government boundaries in water management.
- Unfunded mandates have been passed for cities to be responsible for storm water management.
- Other parts of the county have more political will and have adopted standards to manage storm water.
- Water management impacts nutrient run off; crop harvesting; flood management; ecosystems; transportation; land use; water quality; and economies.

Innovative Ideas

- There is interest in understanding where the anticipated 500,000 additional residents reported in the insight2050 are coming from? Some are normal population growth (births, more people are living longer, etc.) and some of the growth is from increasing immigration. What other demographic facts are part of this future growth besides age?
- Once you lose housing assistance, you cannot get it back under the current policies. People who experience the benefits cliff have a hard time becoming independent of public assistance. Rather than a cliff, could we create a slope, so people receiving benefits do not lose their benefit before they are able to sustain their independence, but rather are eased off the public assistance? How is this information utilized in determining programs/services/needs?
- Central Ohio's growth is greater than the National trend, due to OSU.

GROUP THREE

Meta Solutions

Educational Service Center of Central Ohio

Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Discussion of group three topics:

Common concerns & priorities

- With the 500K growth in Central Ohio coming: what is the impact on schools? Much of the growth is in the older population number increasing. Are certain districts impacted differently?
- Based on these changes, we cannot simply continue to build our communities the same way we have done the past thirty years.
- There is a desire for "a sense of place."
- Can we create access to food, parks, education, and family support for all of our residents? Mobility of people is the key ingredient to increase access to things we value. Communities need to be desirable to live in.
- Gentrification is taking place in parts of the community with intended and unintended consequences.
- Parental involvement is key to community building.

- Racial diversity of students is higher than that of teachers.
- With shift to larger older population, schools will have more difficulty passing levies; The current school funding methods promote wide differences in school resources and are not adequate.
- The high costs to obtain healthy food is the highest barrier for low-income families.
- Cost of food and utilities factor into how much time adults can spend with their children.

Opportunities to collaborate

- More opportunities to do smart development with this new knowledge from insight2050 and other studies that show changing preferences; Communities cannot just continue to do what they have done in the past. Code standards are an issue for smart development. New codes are needed.
- Consistent regulations could be helpful in fostering better outcomes.
- There has to be more we can do to prepare for the communication needs with increased diversity.
- There appears to be more grandparents raising children today. How this is dynamic included in our modeling?
- ESC provides great access to Superintendents/school districts/information.
- Greenways maps could show all parks and metro parks.
- What are other regions and cities doing that face similar challenges? How can we gain access to this information?
- We clearly have an inventory of people who have something to solve. Libraries are adapting to shift to digital; Libraries are for people “to make connections not to simply house collections.
- Global Library Conference coming to Columbus.
- Library is tapping into assisting with pre-school preparation needs and activities/alternatives for “non-school hours” with children.
- High demand for access to computers; Library has a Data set that maps where all these users are coming from. Users were especially high along Cleveland Ave corridor.
- We need to continue to promote sharing resources.
- Can other partners benefit with access to Information technology centers?
- The new META is a State wide purchaser for nearly all school vendor needs. META also provides trained substitute teaching, online instruction and training; other permissible entities can utilize the services.
- Computer training sites exist at META locations. Could META collaborate with the Library for more access to computers and/or workforce development?
- The Foodbank continues to develop strategies to capture significant portions of produce’s valuable surplus and distributes to food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, after-school programs, produce markets and senior housing sites to help low-income families.
- Reeb elementary school is a model program and has been transformed into a community center with a food market.
- One software company purposely hired unskilled and trained them to do data entry.
- Making sure people have the skills they need for the future, including soft skills like the ability to work with others and show up on time.
- Looking at how wages, housing, and transportation affect poverty.
- Central Ohio is clustering in similar socio-economic groups.
- The amount of time it takes to see the good things and bad things being done elsewhere is a challenge.
- FSWCD has an educational component that could be connected with other groups.
- There are continuing efforts to be sustainable/green beyond the development phase.
- FSWCD, SWACO, EPA, and Metro Park have some interesting crossover; how do they work together?

Opportunities for your organization to be part of the solution

- Should there be a Regional minimum wage?
- Investing in young people – Education of children is the greatest social investment.
- MetaSolutions and the direction of libraries are related and have to catch opportunities as they come.
- Are Libraries involved with CMHA?
- More outreach in poorer areas.
- Raise awareness of the educational and entrepreneurial aspects of this program (Mid-Ohio Foodbank) and its ultimate mission which is to end hunger.
- What is MORPC doing for 0-5 children?

Other innovative ideas

- Figuring out ways to best support one another, families, and the family structure.
- “Haves” are gaining more than the “have nots.”
- Give people social and workplace skills in addition to education, as well as efforts to keep them off drugs.
- Insuring digital access to all is a great need.
- Increased connectivity can enhance awareness and communication (Peer Community).
- Workforce needs to support: Books and new jobs.
- The effect of policies such as regional minimum wage.
- Unintended consequences of regional growth (i.e. low income, more poverty) → need to work with the rest of the state.